



The Divine Liturgy: A "Live" Presentation

A misconception that most Christians have is that on Sunday morning, we are supposed to come to Divine Liturgy, as if we are merely asked to attend a concert or a play. This greatest of all liturgical services, however, is far more than a performance, and more significant than a retelling of the life of Christ through hymns, prayers, and sacred actions. According to the theology of our Holy Church, the Divine Liturgy is thought to be a reliving of the "greatest story ever told." Time and again, the life of our Lord unfolds before us every Sunday, and we are all asked to play supporting roles in this dramatic reenactment. Indeed, the Divine Liturgy offers us a unique opportunity to be with Christ every step of the way from Bethlehem to Golgotha.

As the priest offers prayers over the Gifts at the Table of Oblation, the Birth of Christ takes place all over again. At the Little Entrance, we are witnesses to the beginning our Lord's public ministry – emerging from obscurity to become a Teacher and a Friend to many. When the Beatitudes are sung, it is as if we are listening to the Sermon on the Mount overlooking the Sea of Galilee, spellbound by every word uttered by our Master. When the Gospel lesson is read, it is as if Jesus were speaking directly to us, explaining His remarkable parables in a way we can totally comprehend. As the Great Entrance is made, we stand at Golgotha, and like the penitent thief, we hear those comforting words proclaimed by the celebrant: "May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom." As the Divine Liturgy proceeds, we are transported to the Upper Room and we become participants in the Mystical Supper as we hear those profound words: "Take and eat, this is My Body which is broken for your for the remission of sins" and "All of you drink of this, this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins." These words remind us that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are offered "in behalf of all and for all" at every Divine Liturgy. When the Gifts are returned to the Table of Oblation following the communion of the faithful, we stand on the Mount of Olives, looking upward as our Lord ascends into heaven and returns to be seated at the Right Hand of His Father.

Attending the Divine Liturgy is a privilege as well as a learning experience. It bridges the gap between what Jesus did 2,000 years ago and us today. May we come to it with frequency, and in piety and humility.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



January 24, 2016
14th Sunday of Luke

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January 24, 2016

14th Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ; Xenia, Deaconess of Rome; Vavylas the Holy Martyr

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Tu lithu sfragisthentos (Hymn of the Day) Tone 1

Tu Stavru Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion

O mitran parthenikin Tone 1

For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Symeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

Epistle Reading 1st Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Today

Sunday, 1/24– 14th Sunday of Luke; Adult Religious Education: "Being Watchful" 12 to 12:40 p.m.

This Week

Monday, 1/25– St. Gregory the Theologian: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 1/26– Moms and Tots first meeting 10 a.m.

Friday, 1/29– Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 1/30– Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, 1/31– 15th Sunday of Luke; Adult Religious Education: "Taming the Passions" 12 to 12:40 p.m.

✦ Epiphany/Theophany House Blessings

Now that we have completed the celebration of Theophany, Fr. Alex is available to bless homes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the afternoons after 1:30 p.m., by appointment. Please see Fr. Alex or call the office to schedule a House Blessing. House Blessings can be arranged and grouped by region.

✦ **Soup Sunday**– Sunday, January 31st, Fundraiser for the Aloha Youth Choir, delicious bowl of "FRIENDSHIP" soup and roll for \$5.

Words of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Everyone must bear with gratitude what comes to him in the course of events. The more a person descends into humility, the more progress he makes and the more he succeeds."

~ St. Ignatios

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.